

BERLIN, Germany
April 9, 1919.

FROM: Capt. B. J. Valdes
TO: Lt. Col. E. W. Ryan
SUBJECT: Russian Prison Camp at Salzwedel

Location and General Appearance -

This camp is situated on a large plain, about five kilometers from the town of Salzwedel, with clay-sandy soil and open surface drainage. The entire camp was remarkably clean and well-kept, due to the good work of the U.S. troops detachment under Major Douglas W. Stakes.

Camp Government - Military and Prison Personnel

The German detachment in the camp is under the command of a German army officer. The American officers are - Douglas W. Stakes, Major Inf., U.S.A., 1st Lieut. John C. Merrich, Inf. U.S.A., and 1st Lieut. E. K. Tenney, M.C., U.S.A. The Russian senior officer is, Lt. Col. Vladimir Schnarkowsky. Inside the grounds were 4450 Russian prisoners and 550 refugees, and about 600 in addition in commando. All these in commando were working on farms.

Lazaret - Equipment

There were two barracks used as lazarets, one of them exclusively for infectious cases. This arrangement was due to the efforts of Lieut. E. K. Tenney, who on his arrival at the camp had found all cases mixed together. The interior of the wards had been white-washed, and disinfected. There was a total number of 130 patients in the Lazaret, of which 20 were cases of tuberculosis, 5 cases of typhus and several cases of trachoma. When Lieutenant Tenney arrived at the camp he found a large number of Russian prisoners suffering from eye-trouble, and after a thorough medical examination, discovered that about 10% of the men in the barracks were suffering from trachoma. He then proceeded to the immediate isolation of all the cases and succeeded in stopping the spread of the disease. The cases of typhus developed in five patients convalescent from an attack of influenza. The cases were isolated and the ward put in quarantine.

The following material for the lazaret is requested by Lieut. Tenney - sheets, pillow cases and towels; a sterilizer, gauze, bandages, cotton and soap.

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Dietary and Supplies of Camp -

The kitchen was clean and the food given under the instructions and inspection of the American officers. The warehouse space was limited as they only have two small barracks that can hold about six car loads of supplies. The barracks although small are very good, because the material can be unloaded directly into them from the train cars. Sergeant Hugo Norbeck, was put in charge of the warehouse.

Sanitation and General Hygiene -

Water is good and piped from Salzwedel. The toilets were clean. Ventilation was poor both in the sleeping barracks and in the lazaret.

Besides Dr. Tenney, there is a Russian doctor and his wife, who is also a doctor, working in the lazaret, both with the prisoners and the refugees.

B. J. VALDES, Capt., A.R.C.